Carina, Rambo (our dog) and I would like to wish all the readers a Blessed Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holiday.

If you are taking to the roads, please drive carefully and beware of the big trucks, taxis, BMWs, cars with GP and MP registrations!

BEST PRACTICES FOR DXPEDITION OPERATING

"We believe that much of the chaos on the bands during DXpeditions is caused by the operating tactics of the DXpedition operator - this leads to poor operating by DX-Chasers, and therefore to chaos. At a meeting of RSGB, CDXC and GM-DX on 13 October, we agreed to strengthen the 'DX Code of Conduct' and to prioritise the DXpedition side. This has now been completed, thanks to Wayne N7NG and 'DX University', and has been renamed 'Best Practices for DXpedition Operating'. Please go to www.dxuniversity.com click on DXpeditioning Tools, then Basic Practices. Each of the 13 points is hyper-linked to some explanatory text.

We would hope that DX organisations will adopt it as a condition of funding. This would hopefully spread to become the normal requirement for all DXpedition funding: DXpeditions would not only 'support' it, but would also implement it on-air. In this way we expect that chaos on DX bands can be reduced somewhat whenever a DXpedition is under way."

IARU WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBER SOCIETIES

Earlier this year, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) notified its Member Societies that two new national Amateur Radio organisations wished to join the IARU and would need to be voted in - the Federation of Radio Sport of Azerbaijan (FRSA) and the St Vincent and Grenadines Amateur Radio Club (SVGARC). Ballots from all the Member Societies that responded were counted on 1 November and adopted.

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

Based in Baku, Azerbaijan, the FRSA was formally organised on 30 December 2001. There are 50 licensed members of the FRSA out of a total amateur population of approximately 50 in Azerbaijan. The SVGARC is based in St Vincent, St Vincent and the Grenadines and was formally organised in 1951. There are 21 licensed members of the SVGARC, out of a total amateur population of approximately 134 in the country. Both organisations have confirmed to the IARU that they have the ability to meet financial obligations as members of the IARU, are legally able to act in the furtherance of IARU objectives within their respective countries and will adhere to the Constitutions of both the IARU and its respective Regional Organization.

Logbook of the World Web Page Now Features Daily and Hourly Status Up-Updates

The ARRL has created a new informational page http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world to issue daily status updates and information of interest to the Logbook of The World (LoTW http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world) user community. These updates will include planned downtime and changes that will affect LoTW operations. In addition, LoTW's processing queue is now updated hourly http://www.arrl.org/logbook-queue-status, telling how many logs and QSOs have been uploaded to the LoTW system and are waiting processing. New hardware that will improve LoTW's throughput is on order and is expected to be running in six to eight weeks.

Rick Murphy, K1MU, and Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, have been charged with rebooting the Trusted QSL open source project. If you have demonstrably strong C++ development skills that you're interested in applying toward improving LoTW's usability and efficiency, please contact Bernstein via e-mail aa6yq@ambersoft.com. We appreciate the user community's patience while we work to bring LoTW's performance to an acceptable level.

DXCC News (DXCC Year End Reminder and Publication Dates)

The following DXCC reminders were announced on the ARRL's Awards Blog page at http://www.arrl.org/awards-blog. This is a reminder that the deadline for the 2012 DXCC Annual and Honour Roll listing of 31 December 2012, is rapidly approaching. In order to appear in these listings your submission must be postmarked by 31 December 2012. The current publication schedule for these lists is as follows:

2012 DXCC Annual Listing: This listing is scheduled for publication in the 2012 DXCC Yearbook. The 2012 DXCC Yearbook is scheduled for publication, electronically, in August 2013 QST.

December
1 – World Aids Day
2 – SARL Digital Contest
2 Dec to 6 Jan – Garden of Lights, the garden of Vespasian, Peermont D'oreale Grande Hotel
3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
7 – Schools close
8 and 9 – ARRL 10 metre Contest
16 – Day of Reconciliation
17 - Public Holiday
17 to 22 – Blaauklippen Family Christmas Market, Stellenbosch
25 – Christmas Day
26 – Day of Goodwill
29 to 31 – Vic Falls Carnival 2012, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
31 – New Year's Festival of Lights, Nieu-Bethesda

January 2013
1 – New Year's Day
9 – Inland schools open
12 and 13 – Hunting Lions in the Air
16 – Coastal schools open
18 to 20 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest
19 – Wild Flower Day, Chrissiemeer
26 – Summer QRP Sprint
26 – Draf and Trap Night Race, Ottosdal
31 - Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2013 AGM

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

DXCC no longer sends the free copy as was done in past years since it is available, digitally, in QST now. A limited supply of paper editions of the yearbook, starting with 2011, are available for $8.00 each (includes postage). To appear in this list you must:

➢ Present a submission postmarked by 31 December 2012, AND your total on an active award category MUST increase by, at least, one point, or,

➢ Be current on the DXCC Honour Roll by December 31, 2012. (See Honour Roll listing requirements below under 2012 DXCC Honour Roll List). If you do not present a submission in 2012, but you are current on an Honour Roll category (Mixed, Phone, CW, Digital), only the active Honour Roll category will appear in the Yearbook.

2012 DXCC Honour Roll List: This listing is scheduled for publication in August 2013 QST. (Applicants Honour Roll standing must be current as of 31 December 2012. At present, there are 340 current entities on The ARRL DXCC List. Entry level Honour Roll is 331 current entities. Deleted entities do not count towards this award level, eg: If you dropped below 331 current in 2012, you must make a submission with a new country to bring you back on the Honour Roll by 31 December 2012).

THE REVERSE BEACON NETWORK

The Reverse Beacon Network is good at showing where *you* can be heard but what about a tool for showing what you can hear from other places? Faros from Afreet Software http://www.dxatlas.com/Faros/ by Alex, VE3NEA, creator of CW Skimmer and other software, checks reception of the NCDXF beacons from around the world and around the clock and on all the high bands.
http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconschedule.html

MORSE CODE

With the smart phone app becoming nearly ubiquitous, are there any Morse code training programs? Sure! Recommendations include *Ham Morse*, *CWText*, and *Hot Paw*. If anything on a smart phone is cool, then morsing must also be, correct?

There are many Morse training programs such as the ARRLs training CD that uses the Koch method of sending fast characters with lots of spacing http://www.arrl.org/shop/Your-Introduction-to-Morse-Code-audio-CDs/ or IKØYGJ's Zen and the Art of Radio Telegraphy http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/index.html. Phil WØXI has a CW practice resource page http://www.4sqrp.com/resource/w0xi/w0xi-100/most_common.html and groups like SKCC http://www.skccgroup.com/, FISTS http://www.fists.org/ and CWops http://www.cwops.org/ offer lots of information and help!

AFRICAN DX

Lesotho, 7P. Kiyo, JR1IZM, will be active as 7P8ZM from Maseru as of 15 December until January 2013. Activity will be holiday style on 40 - 6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. He will probably use an IC-7200 and Loop with ATU/AH-4. QSL via JO1CRA, direct or by the Bureau.

Sudan, ST. Mario, CT1FTR expects to be active soon from Sudan as ST2FT. He will operate SSB and PSK31 on the HF bands. QSL via CT2GBU, direct or bureau, and eQSL.

Namibia, V5. Look for DJ2BQ, DJ2HD, DK1CE and DL3DXX to be active from Namibia in December - January as follows:

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

22 Dec - 02 Jan   V5/DL3DXX   160-10m SSB and CW
22 Dec - 02 Jan   V5/DK1CE   160-10m CW
22 Dec - 12 Jan   V5/DJ2HD   160-10m SSB and RTTY
04 Jan - 18 Jan   V5/DJ2BQ   80-10m RTTY
QSL V5/DK1CE via DH3WO, others via home call.
An international team from Belgium and The Netherlands will be on air from Bujumbura, Burundi, as 9U4U from 14 - 23 February 2013. The QTH will be at Club du Lac de Tanganyika on the shores of Lake Tanganyika with ten operators with four stations on air. The Website with full details/plans is expected soon. QSL via M0URX.

AFRICAN ISLANDS

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

The Christmas special event station LY12XMAS is currently active on all bands and modes from Lithuania, until 31 December 2012. QSL via LY2QT. For two QSOs, you will receive a free Christmas present from Lithuania. Visit the website at www.qrz.com/db/LY12XMAS

OTHER DX

CONTEST CALENDAR
This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 18 to 24 December 2012.

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op – fox or hound

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 20 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
00:01 UTC 21 December to 23:59 UTC 2 January
Mode: Any
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Members: Member no, name, state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name, state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name, state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 31 January 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA
Find rules at: http://arlhs.com/LCL-2012-guidelines.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op – fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 22 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 December
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

AGB-Party Contest
21:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 December
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op – CW, SSB or mixed; Multi-Op; Digital; 1 Hour; SWL
Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent
Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each DXCC/WAE country once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 January 2013
E-mail logs to: eu1eu@mail.ru
Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU, PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus
Find rules at: http://www.ev5agb.com/contest/agb_party.htm

RAEM Contest
00:00 - 11:59 UTC 23 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band – low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL
Exchange: Serial No and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo-location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional
Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1,1
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22 January 2013
E-mail logs to: raem@srr.ru
Upload log at: http://www.logs.raem.srr.ru/
Mail logs to: Alex Pashkov, PO Box 177, Novosibirsk 630032, Russia
Find rules at: http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2012/rules_eng_2012.php

NEXT WEEK'S CONTESTS

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 21 December to 23:59 UTC 2 January
SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 December
DARC Christmas Contest, 08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 – 20:00 UTC 26 December, 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 December
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 UTC - 03:30 UTC 27 December

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 December
RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 December
World Wide Iron Ham Contest, 12:00 UTC 29 December to 11:59 UTC 30 December
Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 15:00 UTC 29 December to 15:00 UTC 30 December

HISTORY THIS WEEK

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 17 December 2012.

1599 - In Scotland, an ordinance was issued that 1 January should thenceforth be accounted the first day of the year in Scotland
1750 - Benjamin Franklin was severely shocked while electrocuting a turkey
1879 - Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, New Jersey
1892 - The first US patent issued for a pneumatic automobile tyre that could readily and easily be detached or mounted to the rim of a wheel
1882 - The first string of electric Christmas tree lights was created for E.H. Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison
1903 - The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the *Kitty Hawk*, at Kill Devil Hill
1974 The pioneering Altair 8800 microcomputer was first put on sale in the US as a do-it-yourself computer kit

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

Prettige Kerstdagen en een voorspoedig nieuw jaar
Geseënde Kersfees en 'n voorspoedige nuwe jaar
Frohe Weihnachten und ein erfolgreiches Neues Jahr
Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
Весела Коледа и успешна Нова Година
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
عيد ميلاد سعيد وسنة جديدة مزدهرة في عام
Sretan Božić i uspješnu Novu godinu
Krismasi Njema na Mafanikio ya Mwaka Mpya
Joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année prospère
Καλά Χριστούγεννα και μια ευημερούσα νέο έτος
Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo
Feliz Natal e um Próspero Ano Novo
Счастливого Рождества и Нового Года
God jul og et fremgangsrikt nytt år
Linksmų Kalėdų ir klesti Naujieji Metai
Hyvää Joulua ja menestyksekästä Uutta Vuotta
Шчаслівага Калядаў і Новага Года
Crăciun Fericit și un An Nou prosper
חנוכה שמחה
Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket és Sikeres Új Évet
Wesołych Świąt i Nowego Roku Prosperous

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

Häid jõule ja edukat uut aastat
Buon Natale e un prospero Anno Nuovo
Veselé Vianoce a úspešný nový rok
Срећан Божић и просперитетну Нову годину

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"